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SECURITY INFORMATION

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 156  
27 October 1953

1. The following were present:

Mr. Clinton	State
Mr. Kain	State
Major Jacobson	Army
Major Kent	Army
Lt. Madden	Navy
Lt. Col. Rush	Air Force
2574A Sheldon	Air Force
	CIA
	CIA (Chairman)

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2. Proposed Chapter IX Production for FY 1955

The Chairman referred to a report received from the NIS Chapter IX Subcommittee, and informed the members that a proposed production schedule for FY 1955 developed by that Subcommittee had been incorporated in the Tentative FY 1955 Production Schedule, copies of which are to be distributed at this meeting.

The Committee was also informed that the Chapter IX Subcommittee proposed the production of Chapters IX on NIS Area 47 (Morocco), and NIS Area 48 (Algeria) as one combined chapter. The Chairman expressed the opinion that it was a logical treatment for these two areas due to the similarity of the mapping programs. He suggested that the Committee give tentative approval of the proposed treatment at this time, and take the matter under study for final action at the next meeting. The members agreed.

3. Survey on Use of NIS

In fulfillment of the commitment made at the last meeting the Chairman distributed copies of a questionnaire for the consideration of the Committee in connection with survey which is planned to determine user reaction to the NIS. (Refer to Committee Meeting No. 155, 6 Oct 1953). The Chairman explained why the type of questionnaire which he was proposing would, in his opinion, elicit more meaningful commentary than the form which had been considered previously, which required only yes or no answers. In essence, the proposed new form calls for information which would permit evaluation as to the use now being made of the NIS; anticipated usefulness of completed NIS properly maintained; degree of value of NIS in event of a general war; wherein the scope or treatment of the NIS falls short of meeting needs, and wherein the NIS might be improved.

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Discussion disclosed a possible need for a secondary questionnaire, directed primarily to eliciting information which would give more detailed guidance to the NIS contributors on content and format of the NIS elements for which they have production responsibility. The Air Force member undertook to prepare a draft of a questionnaire to serve this purpose, and submit it to the Committee for consideration. With respect to the questionnaire proposed by the Chairman it was agreed that members would take it under study, and indicate the position of their respective agencies at the next meeting.

4. NIS Supplement IV

The Chairman announced that comments had been received from the Geographic Division, CIA, on the proposed revisions of the Outline and Outline Guide for Supplement IV (Urban Areas). (Refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 155, 6 October 1953). He stated that general acceptance of the proposed revisions was indicated, but that reconsideration was requested for the inclusion of some of the items listed as requirements which had been omitted in this revised Outline. The Chairman discussed various aspects of the Outline and pointed out that a trial production effort under this outline appeared desirable prior to approving it for inclusion in the NIS Standard Instructions, and the Committee agreed. However, the Army has yet to indicate what its capabilities are for such production, and the Army member undertook to make this determination and advise the Chairman. Further action will be deferred until the Army makes known its position.

Note: A subsequent meeting was held on 4 November in D/B with the Army Coordinator and Engineer Representatives to determine detailed requirements.

5. Production of Section 60 on Area 13-1

A proposal by State that Section 60 (Introduction) on Area No. 13-1 (East Germany) be produced before completion of other sections in Chapter VI (Economic) was presented for Committee consideration. After discussing the various factors involved it was the consensus of the Committee that such production would be infeasible, and the proposal was, therefore, disapproved.

6. Classifications of NIS Binders and Covers

The Chairman advised that the Army and Air Force had inquired as to the possibility of having the NIS Binders and the Chapter Covers, handled as "Restricted" material when separated from NIS Chapter and Section elements. It was pointed out that all Binders and Chapter Covers are classified not lower than "Secret" in order that NIS sections bearing this classification may be bound in these covers upon publication. Since Binders and Covers are sometimes issued prior to the publication of any "Secret" elements, it has created a problem as to their handling in the Defense Agencies due to recently established accountability procedures for material bearing the "Secret" classification.

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After considering the nature of the information printed on these Binders and Covers, the Committee agreed that "Restricted" would be an appropriate security classification, and authorized the handling of these Binders and Covers as "Restricted" material when detached from related NIS elements.

7. Treatment of Fissionable Material

The Chairman referred to the question raised by the State member at the last meeting with respect to the treatment of fissionable material in Section 63 for NIS Area No. 5 (Belgium). He informed the members that since the information involved is "Top Secret", whereas the balance of Section 63 is only "Confidential", it appeared desirable to treat this subject only in Chapter VII (Scientific), and place a cross reference to it in Section 63. Chapter VII Coordinator is agreeable to this procedure. The Committee agreed.

8. Control Warning

The Chairman asked the members to indicate the position of their respective agencies with regard to the need for issuing some type of control warning for the NIS sections published prior to the time when such warning notices were included in all sections containing a subsection restricted to "US Officials Only". (Refer to NIS Committee Meeting No. 155, 6 Oct. 1953). It was established that all agencies were of the opinion that there was no need for issuance of such a warning, and it was agreed that the matter would be considered closed.

9. F.O.A. Request for NIS

A request from the Foreign Operations Administration for all NIS sections on NIS Area No. 9 (Spain) was submitted to the members for consideration. Members will report their agency position on this request at the next meeting.  
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11. Tentative NIS Production Schedule for FY 1955

The Chairman distributed copies of the Tentative FY 1955 Production Schedule for Committee consideration. He stated that in consolidating the schedules proposed by the contributing agencies a number of questions had arisen which would require clarification before the Committee could act on the Tentative FY 1955 schedule. He provided a list of these questions and asked the members to advise D/B directly with respect to them. The schedule will then be revised as necessary and resubmitted to the Committee.

12. Quarter-page Size Maps

The Chairman informed the Committee that an examination of the map presentations in the NIS led to the conclusion that there is a requirement for a smaller map than has been available heretofore. He pointed out that page size base maps are now used in many instances where a much smaller map would be more in keeping with the significance of the information being presented. He stated that in order to meet this requirement an extension of the Base Map program was planned to provide quarter-page size maps in addition to the standard, and page-size Base Maps.

13. NIS Production for October

The Committee was informed that only 15 sections had been received in D/B in October against a total requirement of 113 sections, of which 70 are overdue from previous months. Discussion revealed that members expected to submit a substantial number of additional sections in the final three days of the month.

14. Key Personnel List

The Army member submitted a revised list of Key Personnel in the Army NIS Program.

In this connection it was decided that the over-all NIS Key Personnel List prepared by D/B would be revised, and the State, Navy and Air Force members agreed to submit lists of key personnel in their agencies for this purpose.

15. Proposed Boundary Changes for NIS Areas

The Army member submitted a memorandum from the Chapter II Coordinator relating to an Army Map Service proposal that the following changes be made in the NIS area boundaries:

- NIS 25      Apply this number to Cyprus only; redistribute Gibraltar to NIS 9 and Malta to NIS 17.
- NIS 40      Remove the west-central corner from consideration under NIS 26-III and reincorporate with NIS 40.
- NIS 44      Apply this number to Malaya only; transfer the British dependencies on Borneo to NIS 100.
- NIS 100      Place the whole of New Guinea in NIS 102.

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The Chairman undertook to study the proposal, and the comments of the Chapter II Coordinator with respect to it, and submit recommendations at a later meeting.

16. ERFA Request for NIS Gazetteers

The Army member submitted a request from the European Radio Frequency Agency for NIS Gazetteers on 14 NIS areas. The request was directed to SHAPE, and forwarded by that Headquarters to Department of the Army.

The Army member stated that the ERFA was a NATO organization and it appeared appropriate, therefore, for Army to grant the request. The Committee was in general agreement with this view but decided to obtain further information on the ERFA before approving the request. The Chairman undertook to look into the matter further, and report his findings to the Committee.

17. The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chairman.

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